

and criminals. Let me ask you to seriously consider if, for all practical purposes, age really is the only test? Should we not really consider that matter dispassionately and with reason?

I am greatly concerned that lowering the voting age will lead to a serious, and I submit successful, attempt to lower the age of majority for drinking alcoholic beverages. It will also lead to a reduction of the age when young, immature adults will be liable for contracts and mortgages.

Lowering the voting age will lead to a reduction of the age of consent for marriage.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired, Delegate Johnson.

Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: May I allot him more time?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: The reduction in the voting age will automatically call for a reduction in the age for a member of the House of Delegates, since this has historically been set at the minimum voting age.

Have not experience and reason taught us not to lower the age? A relatively unknown delegate to the United States Constitutional Convention by the name of Butler, I believe, stated that experience must be our only guide for reason may mislead us.

I urge you not to open this Pandora's box, and I urge you to vote for this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes of my time to Delegate Gullett.

DELEGATE GULLETT: Mr. Chairman, we are going to hear a lot about all the various reasons pro and con concerning the voting age. We are going to proceed to make a complicated matter out of what is probably the simplest issue we have had before us yet.

We can, if we look, find the answer in both the majority and minority reports.

The majority say the criterion is the combination of education and experience. The minority say that the right should be granted when the fundamental precepts are met and they mention the identical

words "combination of education and experience".

This is going to have to be a matter of pure value judgment on the part of each and every delegate here. Each of us must use the sum total of his individual experience and of the experience of those whose opinions are valued to justify the age at which the voting franchise should be authorized.

In my home town we probably have a larger percentage of nineteen- and twenty-year-olds than any other community in Maryland. In fact, the present ratio is about 24,000 college students to 25,000 residents.

My own experience comes with dealing with a great many young people, students and workers alike, on many levels of business and social endeavor.

My considered judgment is that in fact today's youth are eligible, they have that proper sum of education, experience, and social awareness, to be able properly to exercise the franchise, which we should properly grant to them.

There is often heard mention of student takeover; of bloc voting having some drastic effect on election outcomes. I suppose any politician would be glad to find a bloc of innocents that he could mold to suit his purposes but I suggest that this is one egg the professional politician had better not count on hatching because you will never form a bloc out of nineteen- and twenty-year-olds.

My experience, in fact, dictates just the opposite. I know of no group who is less likely to be molded into some type of monolithic bloc, to be swayed one way or another, than the nineteen- and twenty-year-olds of this country. They are just as individualistic as any other age group, and probably even more so. On the campus of the University of Maryland we have more movements than the Bulova Watch Company but there is just as great a divergence of opinion as anywhere. They have political parties, active conventions, Chesapeake Bay Party, Old Line Party, Young Republicans, Young Democrats, and dozens of other social movements.

I heard that only twenty percent of the students participate in the student government. This seems like a surprisingly large number. These are students who are supposed to be studying, and most of them are. The twenty percent is a somewhat larger turnout than the voter turnout for the Constitutional Convention.